

July 31, 2018

Subject: June 2018 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes

Reporting Period: June 2018 –July 2018

Staff Lead: Ulisses Arzola, Strategic Growth Council

Recommended Action:

Approval of the June 28, 2018 Strategic Growth Council Meeting Minutes.

Strategic Growth Council July 31, 2018 Draft Meeting Minutes

Council Members and Representatives Present:

Chair Ken Alex, Governor's Office of Planning and Research (OPR);
Vice-Chair Bob Fisher, Public Member;
Michael Flad, Public Member;
Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA);
Secretary Matthew Rodriquez, California Environmental Protection Agency (CalEPA)
Secretary Michael Wilkening, California Health and Human Services Agency (CHHS);
Secretary John Laird, California Natural Resources Agency (CNRA);
Secretary Alexis Podesta, Business Consumer Services and Housing Agency (BCSH);
Secretary Brian Annis, California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA);

Agenda Item #1: Closed Session

- a. Discussion of potential appointment of employee, under authority of Government Code 11126 (a).

Chair Alex announced there was a unanimous vote taken to appoint Louise Bedsworth as the new Executive Director of the Strategic Growth Council.

Agenda Item #2: Call to Order

Chair Alex called the meeting to order at 9:15am.

Agenda Item #3: Roll Call

The Council introduced themselves.

Agenda Item #4: ACTION: Approval of Minutes

Secretary Laird made the motion to approve the April 20, 2018, SGC meeting minutes.

Secretary Rodriquez seconded. Motion passes 8-0-1*.

*Secretary Wilkening abstained from the vote.

The April 20, 2018 meeting minutes can be found [here](#).

Agenda Item #5: Council Members Update

One-by-one, the Council thanked Executive Director Randall Winston for his work at the SGC and wished him well on his departure to study law at UC Berkeley. Chair Alex also announced that Deputy Director, Marlene De La O was leaving the SGC at the end of July 2018.

Agenda Item #6: Executive Director's Report

Randall Winston, SGC

Natalie Kuffel, OPR

Executive Director Winston updated the Council on a few informational updates, including the Transformative Climate Communities Program and the Climate Change Research Program. He also updated the Council on a Regional Policy Summit in the Inland Empire, the Health in All Policies and annual grant program cycles.

Legislative Director Kuffel updated the Council on the budget including \$40 million for the Transformative Climate Communities Program (up from \$25m), \$18 million for research on climate change (down from \$35m), and \$2 million for technical assistance (new). Kuffel also gave an update on several bills in the legislature, including SB 1072 (Leyva, Regional Climate Collaboratives), AB 2434 (Bloom, HiAP), AB 2258 (Caballero, LAFCo Grant Program), AB 2252 (Limon, State Grants Website).

The full Executive Director's Report can be found [here](#).

Agenda Item #7: **ACTION:** California Climate Investments Technical Assistance

Monica Palmeira, SGC

- a. *Proposed expenditure of \$5 million of FY 2018-2019 funds.*



SGC staff member Palmeira updated the council on the proposed expenditure of \$5 million of FY 2018-2019 funds.

Discussion:

Chair Alex thanked Monica for her work the last couple of years in creating the technical assistance program and commented that it has become a model across government programs.

Secretary Ross also thanked Monica and said it was a model for other states and other countries. Thinks the program will be very successful and is very committed to make sure this works for every farmer.

Public Member Flad stated that on the urban side of TA, it is very critical. It helps build better projects, fosters relationships that did not exist, and is seeing the benefits of the program on a daily basis. He also had a question about the budget and the million dollars for the Beacon Program at the Institute for Local Government (ILG) and what the path forward was for that.

Executive Director Winston said that it was \$2 million dollars that was added to the budget earlier this week. It will likely go for a vote tomorrow in the legislature and likely pass. The SGC will go back to speak with legislative staff, Governor's staff and the ILG to make sure the efforts of TA and ILG are coordinated.

Chair Alex also wanted to note that existing TA has been hugely beneficial. He also wanted to state that farmers can become carbon farmers, the idea of Climate Smart AG is to get out the information that allows farmers to use the techniques that are a part of sequestration in soil that also increases yields and has better outcomes for water.

Public Comment on Technical Assistance:

Sara Schremmer, California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

Jeanne Merrill, Trust for Public Land

Paul Towers, California Farmer Justice Collaborative

Secretary Laird made the motion to approve the proposed expenditure of \$5 million of FY 2018-2019 funds, Secretary Annis seconded. Motion passes 9-0.



The full staff report on the California Climate Investments Technical Assistance can be found [here](#).

Agenda Item #8: ACTION: Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities Program

Craig Shields, Department of Housing and Community Development

Ryan Silber, SGC

a. Recommend Projects for awards

Craig Shields gave an overview of the program's vision, eligibility, application process and the recommended projects for approval.

Ryan Silber showed examples of recommended projects proposed for funding, the technical assistance efforts by AHSC staff to applicants, possible areas for guidelines revision, and the program's tentative schedule and next steps.

Discussion:

Chair Alex asked about the 3 projects under the transportation category that had the same score and were at the cutoff for awards. He wanted to know how they went through the process of recommending one over the other.

Silber stated it was a highly competitive field and the tiebreaker, which is laid out in the guidelines, was to do a "rebinning" of greenhouse gas scoring of projects against each other and grade on a curve. The new scores reordered the projects according to the rebinning.

Secretary Rodriquez wanted to clarify if no money was awarded for home ownership developments because they are not eligible in the guidelines. Wanted to see more visual representation of the projects and thought the information provided on the projects was too short considering we are awarding nearly \$300 million in funds.

Silber stated that home ownership projects are eligible, but they generally come in at a lesser level of affordability compared to the rental projects than what the program guidelines state as acceptable. They are trying to analyze how to work it in their guidelines or provide an exception to homeownership projects.

He also stated that he would be happy to follow-up with more information on the awarded projects.

Secretary Ross made the motion to approve the recommend projects for awards, Public Member Flad seconded. Motion passes 8-0-1.*

*Public Member Fisher abstained from the vote.

Public Comment on AHSC:

Caroline Torosis, Los Angeles County Chief Executive Office

Alicia Sebastian, California Coalition for Rural Housing/ Self Help Enterprises

Troy Hightower, Mountain View Project

Andy Madeira, Eden Housing

Alexander Pratt, AMCAL Multi-Housing

Rachel Hatch, McCowell Foundation/K2 Land + Investments

Allen Naught, K2 Companies

Angie Manetti, City of Fresno

Josh Candelaria, County of San Bernardino

Christina Lockke, Sacramento Area Council of Governments

Nick Roma, Office of Senator Connie Leyva

After public comment, Chair Alex encouraged the Eden project to reapply and look for a way to get funding. Noted that AHSC will continue to fund projects now that Cap and Trade proceeds will continue in the near future.

The full staff report and appendixes on the Affordable Housing, Sustainable Communities Program can be found [here](#) and [here](#).



CALIFORNIA STRATEGIC
GROWTH COUNCIL

Agenda Item #9: General Public Comment

Esther Postiglione, California Walks

Emily Busch, East Bay Asian Local Development Corporation

Amer Rashid, Office of Assemblymember Reyes

Agenda Item #10: Meeting Adjourned

Chair Alex Adjourned the meeting at 10:47am.

The full video of the June 28, 2018 Strategic Growth Council meeting can be found [here](#).

